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[Transcribed 22 May 2011 by IB, typed 2 August 2012]

H A Hall to Margaret Wilson, 31 August 1952

Wooopenatty

Arrino

31.8.52

Dear Marg

Thank you for your several good letters and apologies for not replying.

We are in a parlous state regarding Rain, if we don't get a couple of inches of well spread falls in Sept all the aged Ewes & Hogget & weaner wethers must be sold. 650 mature wethers have already gone to Midland.

Furthermore the wheat crop will be the lowest for very many years & my wheat weighing will be a [?frost]. Am posting you 4 NZ papers, in the copy of 26th March page 6 there is an article on Genealogy from which you will see I am not alone in being a silly old crank on the subject, one of those who cannot understand why some people made a life study of horses pedigrees yet treat human pedigrees as pure snoberry [sic]. Recently read a scientific article on Hormones or chrosames? in which the writer could not resist a side kick at peoples pride in ancestry, by pointing that in a few generations a person would only have 2 Hormones? of an ancestor. This addle pate ignored or overlooked the fact of much intermarriage, such as for instance as Harry & Erica Carey's children, all twice as much our relations as the Parents.

Here we have Dawn & June all Carey, fair and rapid of speech & Rachel dark & slow spoken like the Halls. Again take the Heppingstone women. Irene Lethbridge, Connie & Dorothy all rapid of speech whilst Vida Bunbury is phlegmatic. Frank Venn used to say of the Heppingstone

women of years ago (& he knew them intimately) "Vida is the flower of that flock & do you know why? She is a Hall".

Old Captain Hester's wife was a French Peasant woman & her strain prevails, but Grandpa Hall having married his cousin, their type reappears.

In the same paper page 11 there is also an article on the conduct of young children that is worth perusal.

Have made up another 4 of the same journals to Constance if you are interested you could exchange. I find them full of interest but haven't the leisure to go through them, not that you have any time to spare, but you are inside the house & can pick up a paper now & again whilst I am out of doors most of the day, to say nothing of a little riding. I have my old cob Teddy. He seemed to remember me after [?4] years absence. I can catch him out in the horse paddock amongst the other hacks, whereas the three other hands have to bring the lot in to catch theirs.

Whitaker's Almanac gives the London a/d of the Society of Genealogists referred to in the article in the NZ paper, when we [?meet] [---] remind me to write to them for information as to cost of an investigation.

Re the copy of Quarterings of arms I gave to Paddy Gilmore, that was only a tracing in [?ink] of a coloured copy made & given me by Leslie Hall long years ago, he Leslie had the original it was in colors on parchment & mounted on a miniature easel. You can have a look at my copy, it is in the old desk in Mother's wood shed.

At long last I have set down for you as best I can our family records, the result is disjointed because having dealt with matters no's 1 2 3 4 5 & 6 &c I recollect something further regarding 6 4 & 2 hence no sequence, how ever am writing the fair copy on one side only of the paper

so that you can cut the sheets across & paste them together to make a sequence. When you have done that I suggest you, Constance & Joan make notes of any further information needed, which I will where possible supply, then get Joan or Con to make 3 typed carbon copies & call it a day.

Ever your affectionate old Dad

PS In the old Desk I think there are some notes on family history obtained by At Joy from At Sarah Bracher. They aren't much value. Joy was only about 15 at the time. Still you can take them & the copy of arms if you desire.